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(*e*) for what districts the said officers have completed the Gazetteers and in what period of time and if no Gazetteers have so far been completed by those officers, the reasons therefor;

(*f*) whether the work of revising the existing Gazetteers was undertaken at any time and whether any officer or officers were deputed for the purpose;

(*g*) if so, which of them completed the work and which did not and for what reasons;

(*h*) how far the work of revision has progressed and when the Government expect it to be completed; and

(*i*) what are the districts for which such revision is being undertaken and what are the districts for which Gazetteers are out of print and for how long and why?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The districts are—Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Chingleput, Kurnool, Ganjam and the three new districts of Chittoor, Ramnad and West Godavari. The reasons why Gazetteers have not been compiled for these districts are given below.

(*c*) & (*d*) In 1902 and 1903 orders were issued that the officers in charge of the resettlement of these districts should prepare the Gazetteers in the course of their settlement work In 1926 Mr. J. J. Cotton was placed on special duty as Editor of Gazetteers for a period of two years in the first instance. He was in charge of the work of writing Gazetteers till his death on 20th June 1927.

(*e*) The settlement officers owing to their other work found themselves unable to complete the Gazetteers for the districts mentioned above. Mr. Cotton made substantial progress in the preparation of the Gazetteer of Nellore but died before the work was completed.

(*f*) Mr. Cotton was also entrusted with the work of revising and bringing up to date the statistical tables in the volumes of existing Gazetteers.

(*g*) & (*h*) Mr. Cotton sent the statistical volumes for 21 districts to the press before his death. The work is now being continued by the Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers under the direction of Mr. Vernon, Member of the Board of Revenue. The Government are unable to say when it will be completed.

(*i*) The revision of the statistical volumes has not been completed for the districts of Vizagapatam and East Godavari. There is no information with the Government as to the districts for which Gazetteers are now not available for sale. It is being collected

Revision of Gazetteers and preparation of statistical volumes.

* 312 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and why the office of the Curator of the Record Office was combined with the preparation and revision of District Gazetteers and whether the arrangement still continues or has been abandoned;

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(*b*) (i) what was the nature and amount of work turned out by the last incumbent as Curator ; and

(ii) what was the work turned out by him in the edition, revision and publication of Gazetteers ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have considered or will consider the proposal of allotting the work of the revision of Gazetteers and the preparation of statistical volumes to able Indian Civilians or experienced Deputy Collectors and in the respective districts and having the work done under the supervision and guidance of District Collectors or the Board of Revenue as the case may be, with a view to expedite the work?

A.—(*a*) The post of Editor of Gazetteers was combined with that of Curator, Madras Record Office, with effect from 1st July 1926 when Mr. J. J. Cotton, I.C.S., joined duty. It was considered unnecessary to have two Separate Officers. He held charge from 1st July 1926 till his death on 20th June 1927.

M.R.Ry. K. N. Krishnaswami Ayyar Avargal, Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers and Curator, Madras Record Office, was in temporary charge of the Madras Record Office till 16th December 1927, when the present Curator, M.R.Ry. A. V. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal took charge. He does not attend to Gazetteer work.

(*b*) (i) Messrs. Cotton and Krishnaswami Ayyar were in charge of the duties of the Record Office including the reprint of the old records. It is not possible to measure this work.

(ii) At the time of his death Mr. Cotton had made considerable progress in the preparation of the 'A' volume for one district (Nellore) and had sent 21 'B' volumes to the Press. The Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers has been continuing the preparation of the 'B' volumes and the supplementary chapters for them.

(*c*) The Government have recognized the need for up-to-date Gazetteers and have taken steps for their preparation from time to time. The preparation of 'A' volumes cannot at present be resumed as no suitable officer is available. The hon. Member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

Qualifications and duties of the Personal Assistant to the Editor of the Gazetteer.

*313 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any special qualifications and duties have been prescribed for the office of the Personal Assistant to the Editor of the Gazetteer and for that of the Statistician ; and

(*b*) what are the qualifications and duties of the present Personal Assistant to the Editor and of the present Statistician?

A.—(*a*) No special qualifications have been prescribed by the Government for these posts. The post of Statistician has been abolished.